

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, EIND, IT
SUBJ: PARLIAMENT INDICTS TWO FORMER MINISTERS IN LOCKHEED
SCANDAL

REF: ROME 3963

1. SUMMARY. PARLIAMENT'S DECISION TO INDICT FORMER
DEFENSE MINISTERS GUI AND TANASSI HAS RAISED POLITICAL
TENSIONS, BUT THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ANDREOTTI GOVERN-
MENT ARE NOT YET CLEAR. VOTING ON INDICTMENT FOLLOWED
PREDICTED PARTY LINES. AS GUI-TANASSI CASE MOVES TO
CONSTITUTIONAL COURT, THE INQUIRY COMMITTEE IS FACED
WITH RADICAL PARTY CHARGES AGAINST PRESIDENT OF THE
REPUBLIC LEONE AND OTHERS. END SUMMARY.

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2. FOR THE FIRST TIME, AN ITALIAN PARLIAMENT HAS IN-
DICTED SERVING PARLIAMENTARIANS (AND EX-MINISTERS) AND
SENT THEM TO TRIAL BEFORE THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT.
FORMER DEFENSE MINISTERS LUIGI GUI AND MARIO TANASSI
AND THE NON NON-MINISTERIAL DEFENDENTS WERE
INDICTED BY ABSOLUTE MAJORITIES OF THE JOINT HOUSES OF
PARLIAMENT IN SECRET BALLOT VOTING WHICH WENT ALONG

PREDICTED AND STRICTLY PARTY LINES. FOR GUI, THE MARGIN WAS THIN, WITH 487 PARLIAMENTARIANS VOTING FOR INDICTMENT, ONLY TEN MORE THAN REQUIRED. TANASSI WAS INDICTED BY 513 VOTES. THE NUMBERS INDICATE THAT THE PRO-INDICTMENT COALITION HELD, WITH VERY FEW INDIVIDUAL "CONSCIENCE" DECISIONS. INTERESTINGLY, WITHOUT THE VOTES OF NEO-FASCIST ITALIAN SOCIAL MOVEMENT, WHO JOINED THE LEFTIST PARTIES, THE REPUBLICANS AND THE LIBERALS, THE INDICTMENT OF GUI WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE. THE RULING CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY (DC) NOT ONLY SUPPORTED ITS OWN DEFENDENT, GUI, BUT ALSO APPARENTLY HELD ABSOLUTELY FIRM IN FAVOR OF TANASSI. THIS IS A MEASURE OF THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE DC PARLIAMENTARIANS GOT PARTY PRESIDENT ALDO MORO'S FIRM MESSAGE TO DIG IN THEIR HEELS (REFTEL), AND IS ESPECIALLY STRIKING SINCE ONLY TWO OF THE EIGHT DC INQUIRY COMMITTEE MEMBERS HAD VOTED IN TANASSI'S FAVOR AT THE COMMITTEE STAGE.

3. REACTION TO THE INDICTMENTS COMPLETELY DOMINATES THE NEWS. MUCH COMMENT CONNECTED THE VOTE TO MORO'S MARCH 9 SPEECH. INITIAL DC DECLARATIONS TENDED TO AVOID INTERPRETING THE DEFEAT AS A THREAT TO THE CONTINUANCE OF THE ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT. DC DEPUTY PARTY SECRETARY GALLONI DID MUCH TO REDUCE TENSIONS BY DECLARING THAT THE VOTE "CANNOT HAVE POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES." FOR THE COMMUNISTS, THE VOTE REJECTED WHAT THEY CALLED MORO'S THESIS OF "THE PRIMARY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IMPORTANCE OF THE DC," WHICH ACCORDING TO THE PARTY NEWSPAPER L'UNITA IS "AN ARROGANT PRETENSION". A COMMUNIST DEPUTY PUT THE PARTY'S ATTITUDE SIMPLY WHEN HE LEFT THE HALL OF PARLIAMENT EXCLAIMING, "SO, JUNE 20 REALLY HAPPENED AFTER ALL." (COMMENT: JUNE 20, 1976 WAS THE DATE OF THE LAST PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS IN WHICH THE PCI MARKEDLY INCREASED ITS REPRESENTATION. COMMUNIST LEADER PAJETTA SAID THAT THE VOTE SHOULD BE VIEWED POSITIVELY BECAUSE THE OPPOSITE RESULT COULD HAVE AGGRAVATED THE POLITICAL SITUATION. SOCIALIST PARTY SECRETARY CRAXI COMMENTED THAT THE VOTE "CONTRIBUTED TO MAINTAINING OPEN THE SEARCH FOR THE TRUTH," AND THAT THE POLITICAL SITUATION WAS UNSTABLE BEFORE THE VOTE AND REMAINS SO AFTERWARD.

4. THE GUI-TANASSI PORTION OF THE LOCKHEED CASE NOW MOVES TO THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT. THE PRESEIDENT OF THE COURT HAS PROMISED QUICK ACTION, BUT OBSERVERS

THINK THE TRIAL COULD TAKE A YEAR OR MORE.

5. THE PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY COMMISSION WILL ON MARCH 17 CONSIDER THE FORMAL ACCUSATIONS MADE BY RADICAL PARTY LEADER PANNELLA AGAINST PRESIDENT LEONE AND OTHERS (INCLUDING TWO AMERICAN LOCKHEED EMPLOYEES) IN CONNECTION WITH LOCKHEED'S ACTIVITIES IN ITALY. THE COMMITTEE IS LEGALLY BOUND TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO OPEN A NEW INVESTIGATION BASED ON PANNELLA'S VERY DETAILED ACCUSATIONS, WHICH THEMSELVES RELY ON DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE DURING THE INITIAL INVESTIGATION. COMMENT: MOST OBSERVERS IN POLITICAL ROME SEEM TO THINK THAT THE RADICALS' ACCUSATIONS WILL BE REJECTED BY THE COMMITTEE WITHOUT AN INVESTIGATION. THE MATTER CANNOT BE SHELVED, HOWEVER, WITHOUT THE ASSENT OF THE LEFT. THE PCI HAS SHOWN NO ENTHUSIASM ABOUT PROCEEDING AGAINST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LEONE, BUT THE SOCIALISTS ARE BURDENED BY THE AFTERMATH OF THE TURMOIL FOLLOWING THEIR DECISION NOT TO SUPPORT THE INCRIMINATION OF RUMOR. HAVING PROMISED THEIR RANK-AND-FILE THAT THE PSI WILL LEAVE NO STONE UNTURNED IN THE SEARCH FOR THE TRUTH, THE SOCIALIST LEADERS MAY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO SUPPORT SHELIVING THE LEONE INQUIRY. A DECISION NOT TO PROCEED AGAINST LEAONE WOULD REDUCE TENSIONS. AN INVESTIGATION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC WOULD, ON THE OTHER HAND, POLARIZE THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM IMMEDIATELY AND OPEN UP A PANDORA'S BOX WITH UNKNOWN IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, EIND, IT
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6. GENERAL COMMENT: IT IS NOT YET CLEAR TO WHAT DEGREE THE
EMOTIONS AND TENSIONS OF THE LAST SEVEN DAYS WILL LEAVE
THEIR SCARS ON THE FRAGILE BODY POLITIC. THE LOCKHEED
VOTE, EXCLUSIVELY ON PARTY LINES, HAS UNDOUBTEDLY
DEEPENED THE DIVISIONS BETWEEN THE DC AND THE
ABSTAINING PARTIES, ESPECIALLY THE PCI AND PSI. IN
ADDITION, DC-PCI RELATIONS WERE ALSO STRAINED BY THE
PREVIOUS PCI DECISION TO SUPPORT INCRIMINATION OF
FORMER PM RUMOR. TURMOIL WITHIN THE PSI OVER THE
SOCIALIST DECISION NOT TO SUPPORT RUMOR'S INCRIMINA-
TION HAS HIGHLIGHTED THE INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES WHICH
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PREVENT THE PSI FROM PLAYING A POSITIVE ROLE. THESE
INTERNAL PROBLEMS MAKE THE RE-LAUNCHING OF THE SOCIALIST
INITIATIVE FOR BILATERAL ENCOUNTERS PROBLEMATIC.
THE DC, FOR ALL ITS INITIAL EFFORTS TO CALM THE TENSIONS
RAISED BY MORO'S POLEMICAL SPEECH, REMAINS EMOTIONALLY
HURT AND WOUNDED. TO WHAT EXTENT WILL IT SEEK TO
STRIKE BACK IN COMING WEEKS BY HARDENING ITS
POSITIONS AS THE LOGJAM OF POLITICALLY CONTENTIOUS
DRAFT LEGISLATION (FISCALIZATION DECREE, INDUSTRIAL
RECONVERSION, ABORTION, ETC.) COMES TO A HEAD? THE
ATTITUDES OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES MAY BECOME CLEARER
IF THE SOCIALIST SPONSORED BILATERAL MEETINGS GET
UNDERWAY. ALTHOUGH THE DUST HAS NOT YET BEGUN TO
SETTLE, IT NONETHELESS IS ALREADY CLEAR THAT THE PARTISAN
VOTE HAS FURTHER AGGRAVATED FESTERING POLITICAL
TENSIONS.BEAUDRY

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